

Communications
Workers of America
AFL-CIO
West Virginia Area

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April 23, 2010

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C.

RE: GN Docket No. 09-191, WC Docket No. 07-52. In the Matter of Preserving the Open Internet Broadband Industry Practices

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Communications Workers of America (CWA) District 2 in West Virginia represents more than 2,000 employees in the state who work in the telecommunications industry. CWA members have built and hope to continue to build their careers in this dynamic sector. Our members want to be part of the expansion of high-speed Internet to every home, business, school, hospital, library, and community in the United States so that every American can participate in the unlimited opportunities of the Internet age.

The FCC recently adopted a National Broadband Plan (NBP) designed to achieve that goal. Our union participated in the development of that plan. The members we represent look forward to working on the implementation of that plan. Specifically, they want to help build, maintain, and service broadband networks to the 30 percent of West Virginians that currently have no broadband, and they want to help upgrade existing networks to meet the NBP goals of 50 mbps downstream/20 mbps upstream by 2015 and a gigabit capacity to every community anchor institution.

We know that reaching those goals will require tens of billions of dollars of private investment.

As the FCC considers rules to protect an open Internet, it must make job creation and investment a top priority. The FCC's rules must ensure that people can go where they want when they want on the Internet, without blocking or degradation of service. At the same time, the FCC's rules must be flexible enough to allow broadband providers to manage their networks efficiently and to provide specialized services like video so that consumers can realize the multiple benefits of the Internet and providers can earn revenues to pay for upgrading their networks.

At a recent jobs summit, the Administration announced that it must examine all public policies through the prism of job creation. We're now experiencing lay-offs in our industry. We urge you Chairman Genachowski to ensure that your broadband policies stimulate investment that sustains and grows good, career, union jobs in our industry.

Sincerely,

Elaine A. Harris
CWA International Representative

CC: Larry Cohen, President, CWA
Ronald D. Collins, Vice President; District 2